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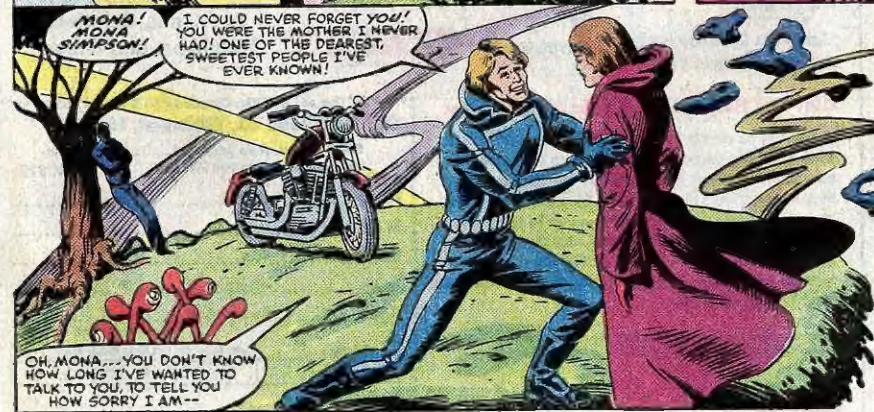
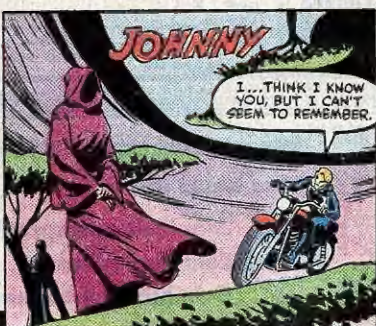
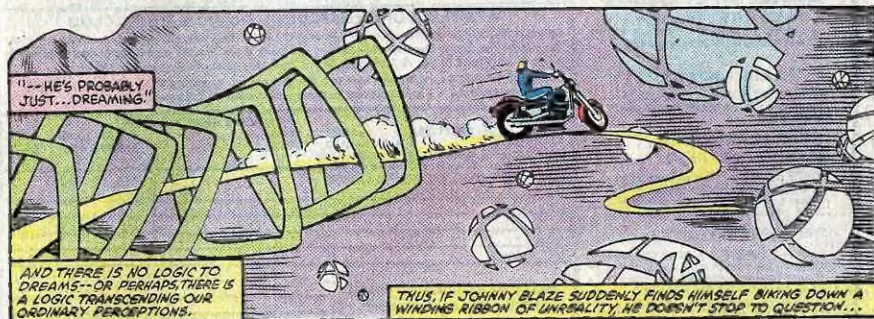
GAZE, ZARATHOS--UPON THE BODY OF YOUR HUMAN HOST, JOHNNY BLAZE, HE LIES, UNCONSCIOUS UPON AN OPERATING TABLE, AT THE MERCY OF THE VILLAINOUS RENALDO--WHO SEEKS TO TRANSFORM BLAZE INTO A CREATURE AS FREAKISH AS HIS GIBBERING SERVANTS! BUT RENALDO SHALL NOT SUCCEED!

LONG BEFORE HIS GRISLY WORK IS DONE, YOU AND I SHALL ENTRAP BLAZE WITHIN HIS OWN TORMENTED MIND! WITHIN THE SHADOWY CAVERNS OF...



(GHOST RIDER: Vol. 1, No. 78, March, 1983. (U.S.P.S. 425-850) Published by MARVEL COMICS GROUP, James E. Galton, President, Stan Lee, Publisher, Michael Hobson, Vice-President, Publishing, Milton Schiffman, Vice-President, Production, OFFICE OF PUBLICATION: 387 PARK AVENUE SOUTH, NEW YORK, N.Y. 10016. SECOND CLASS POSTAGE PAID AT NEW YORK, N.Y. AND AT ADDITIONAL MAILING OFFICES. Published monthly. Copyright © 1982 by Marvel Comics Group, a division of Cadence Industries Corporation. All rights reserved. Price: 90¢ per copy in the U.S. and 75¢ in Canada. Subscription rate: \$7.50 for 12 issues. Canada and Foreign: \$9.50. Printed in the U.S.A. No similarity between any of the names, characters, persons, and/or institutions in this magazine with those of any living or dead person or institution is intended, and any such similarity which may exist is purely coincidental. This periodical may not be sold except by authorized dealers and is sold subject to the conditions that it shall not be sold or distributed with any part of its cover or markings removed, nor in a mutilated condition. GHOST RIDER (including all prominent characters featured in this issue), and the distinctive likenesses thereof, are trademarks of the MARVEL COMICS GROUP. Postmaster: Send address changes to Subscription Dept., Marvel Comics Group, 387 Park Avenue South, New York, N.Y. 10016.





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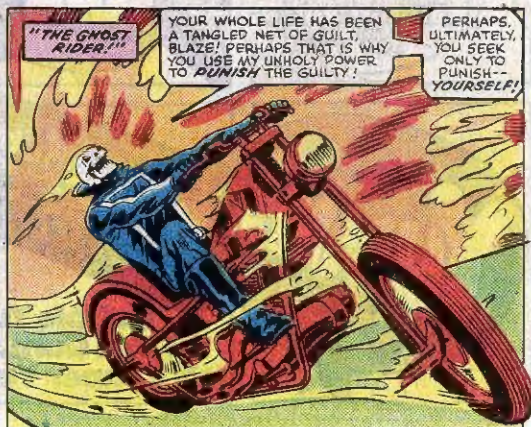
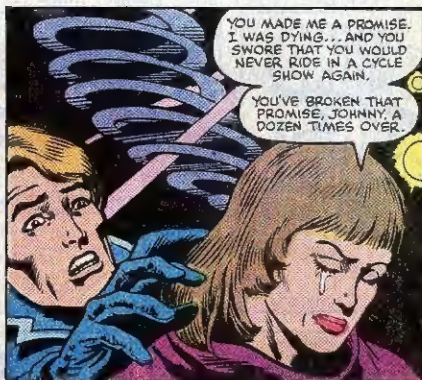
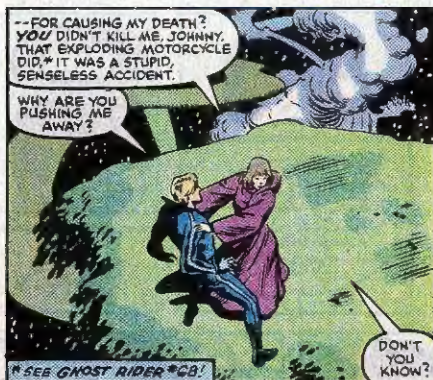
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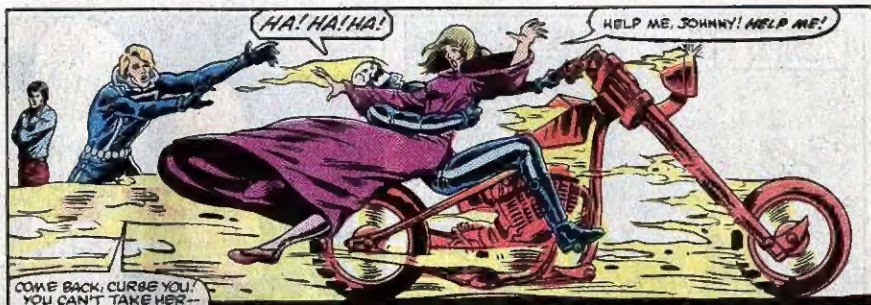
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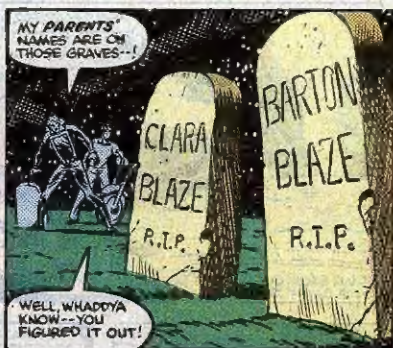
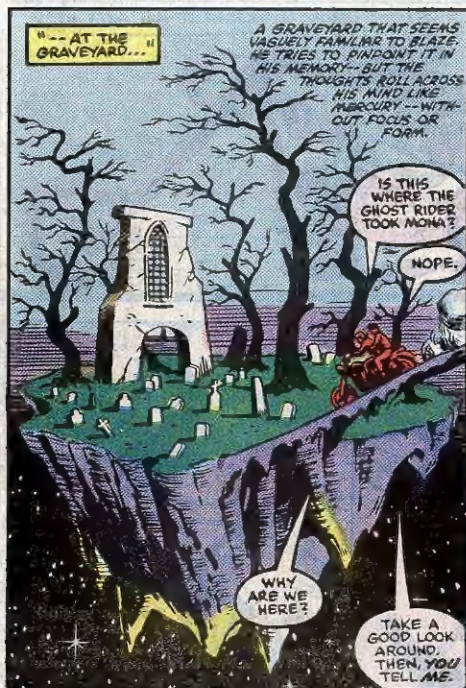
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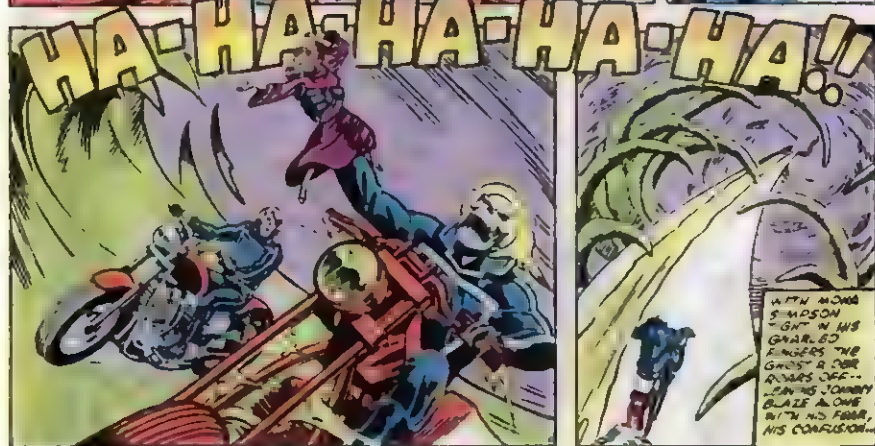
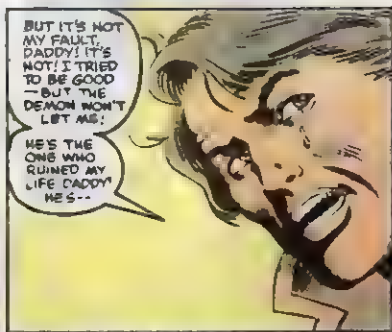
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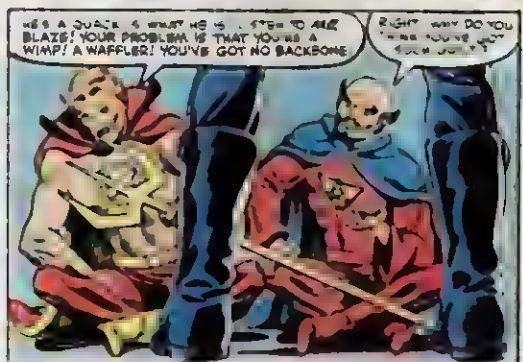
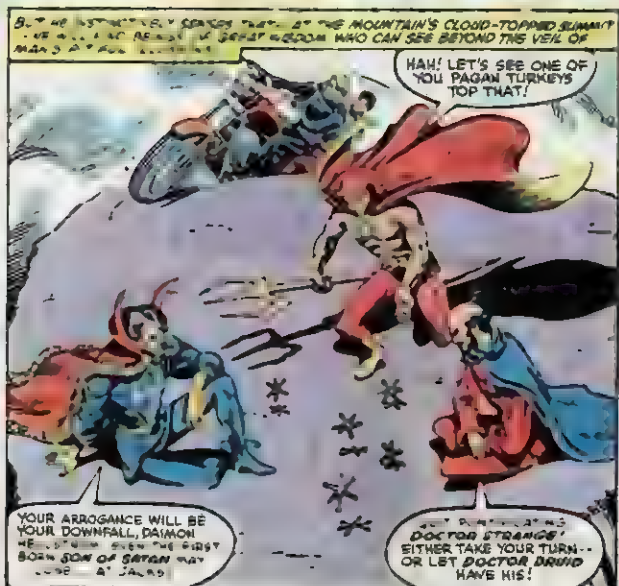
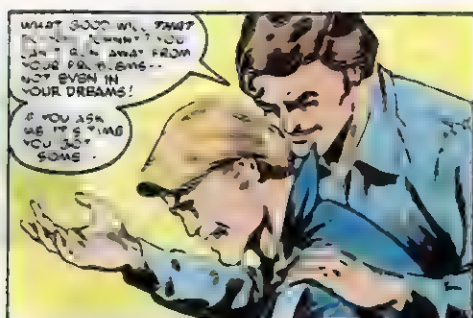
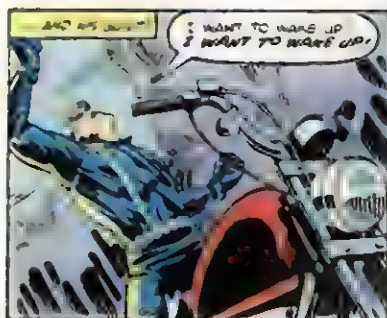
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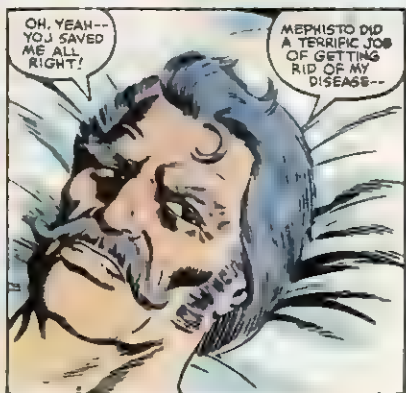
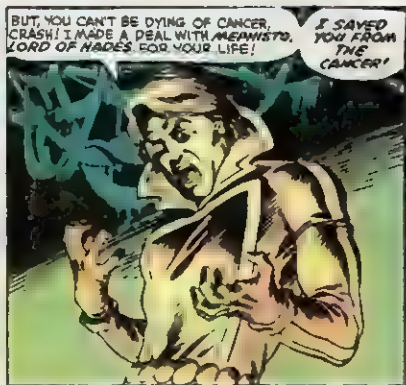
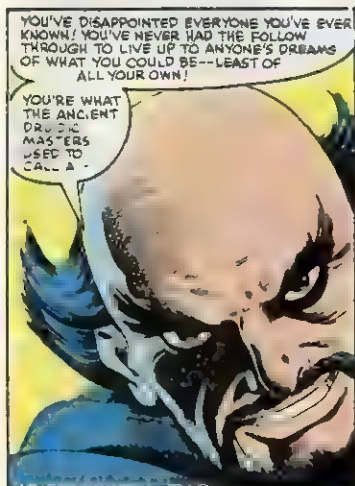












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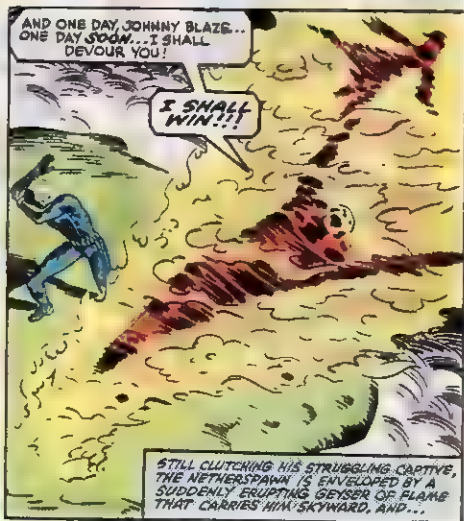
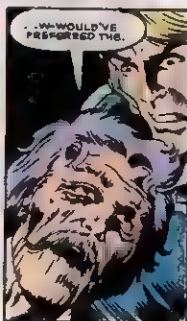
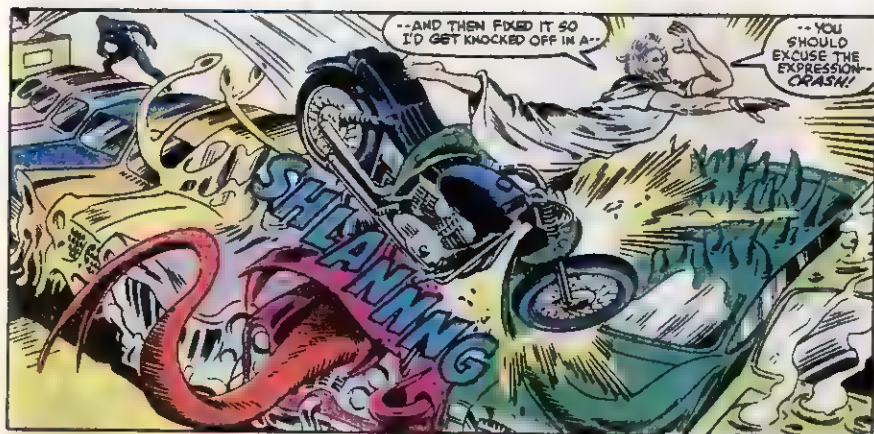
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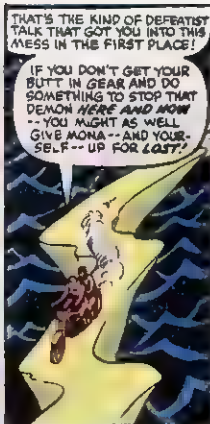
--YET HOLDING HIM BACK AT THE SAME TIME!

JOHNNY, JOHNNY, JOHNNY!

YOU'VE GOTTA TAKE IT EASY, MAN! WE'LL FIND MONA!

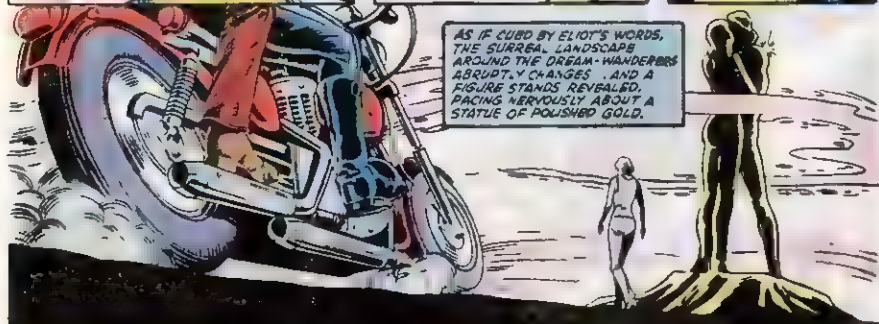
THAT'S WHAT YOU'VE BEEN TELLING ME ALL ALONG, ELIOT! BUT THE GHOST RIDER KEEPS ESCAPING!

I'LL NEVER BEAT HIM!

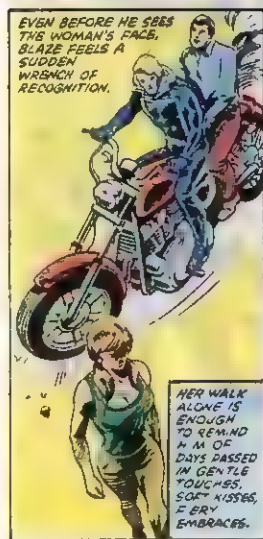


THAT'S THE KIND OF DEFEATIST TALK THAT GOT YOU INTO THIS MESS IN THE FIRST PLACE!

IF YOU DON'T GET YOUR BUTT IN GEAR AND DO SOMETHING TO STOP THAT DEMON HERE AND NOW--YOU MIGHT AS WELL GIVE MONA--AND YOURSELF--UP FOR LOST!



AS IF CUED BY ELIOT'S WORDS, THE SURREAL LANDSCAPE AROUND THE DREAM-WANDERERS ABRUPTLY CHANGES, AND A FIGURE STANDS REVEALED, PACING NERVOUSLY ABOUT A STATUE OF POLISHED GOLD.



EVEN BEFORE HE SEES THE WOMAN'S FACE, BLAZE FEELS A SUDDEN WRATH OF RECOGNITION.

HER WALK ALONE IS ENOUGH TO REMIND HIM OF DAYS PASSED IN GENTLE TOUCHES, SOFT KISSES, FRY EMBRACES.

ROXANNE!

FIRST YOUR MOTHER, THEN YOUR FATHER-- AND NOW YOU! THIS IS SO STRANGE!

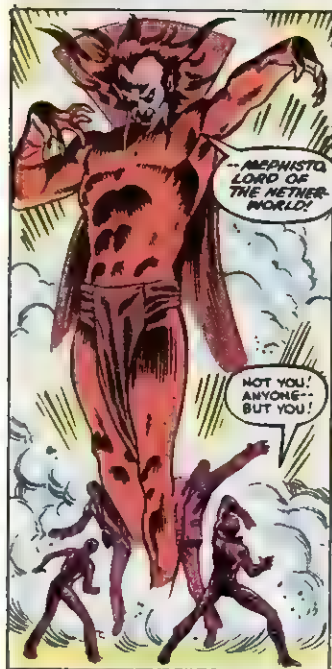
DO I KNOW YOU?

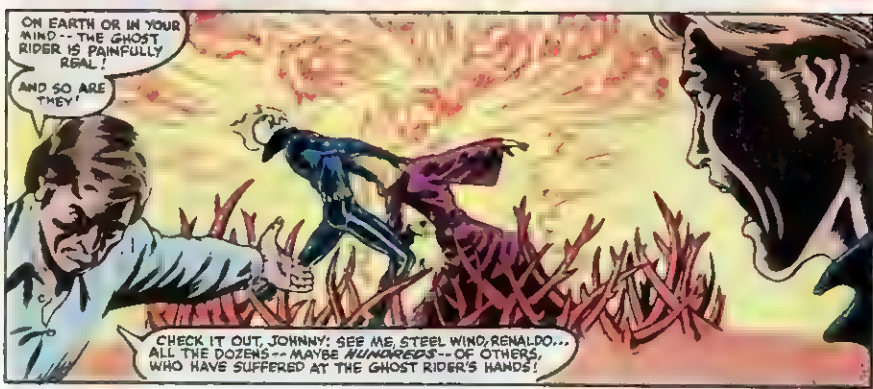
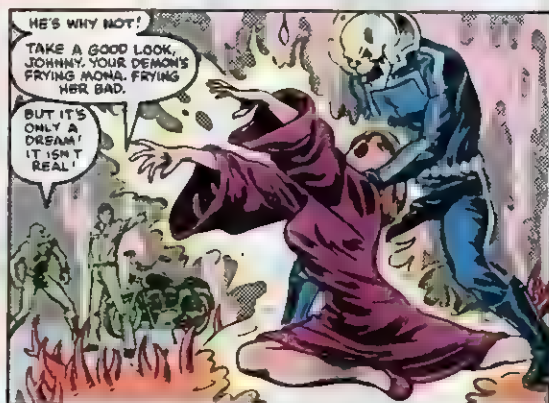
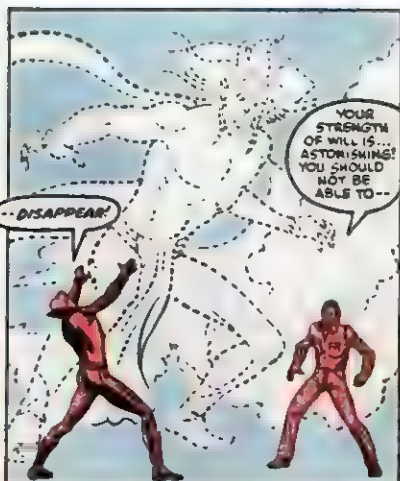
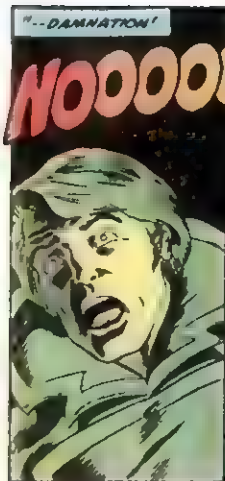
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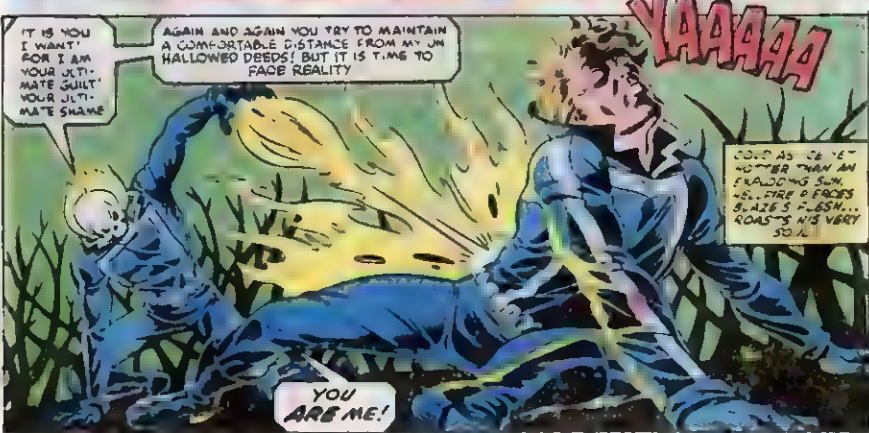
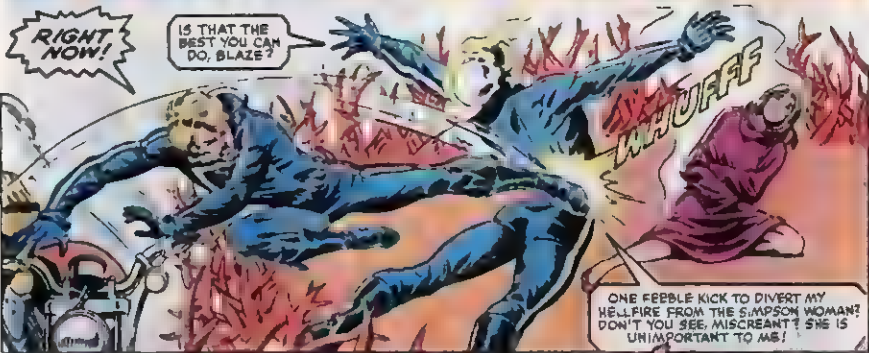
NO, YOU'RE NOT JOHNNY. NOT THE JOHNNY I KNEW!

MY JOHNNY WOULD HAVE NEVER FORGOTTEN ME, AS YOU DID!

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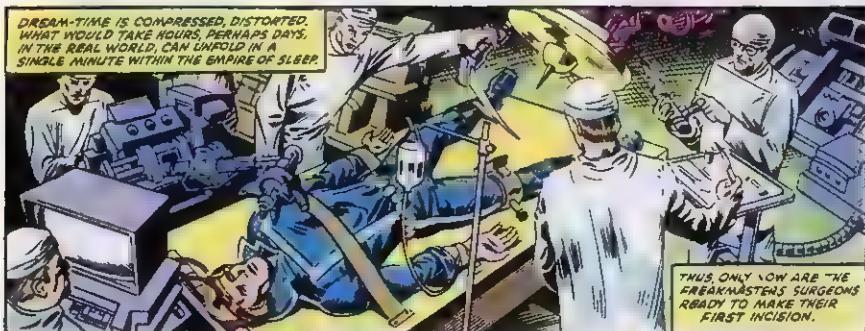
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THIS, ONLY NOW ARE THE FREAKMASTERS SURGEONS READY TO MAKE THEIR FIRST INCISION.

BUT, AS THE SCALPEL DESCENDS



... A LIVING NIGHTMARE ARISES!

HA-HA-
HA-HA!



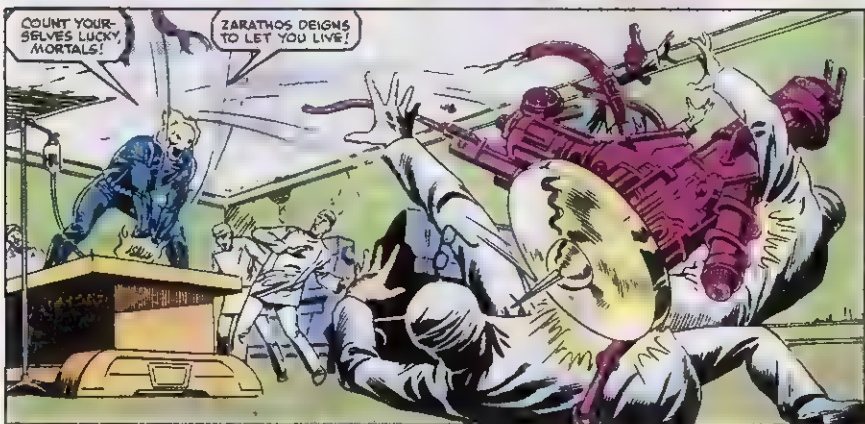
WHAT
ECSTASY
THIS IS!

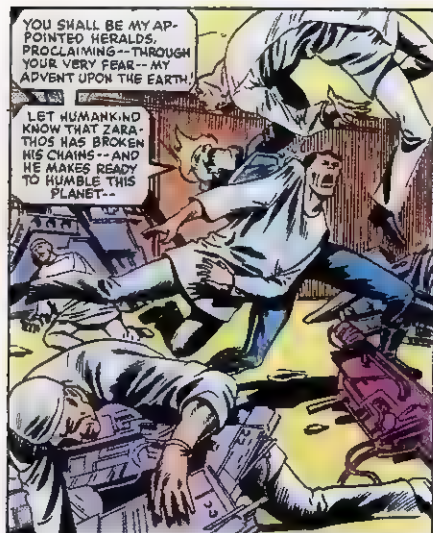
TO STAND FREE
AMONG MEN—
WITHOUT BLAZE'S
ACCURSED PRE-
SENCE HOVERING
IN MY MIND!



COUNT YOUR-
SELVES LUCKY,
MORTALS!

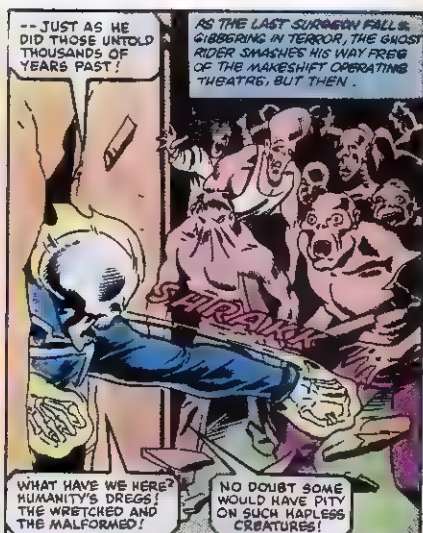
ZARATHOS DEIGNS
TO LET YOU LIVE!





YOU SHALL BE MY APPOINTED HERALDS, PROCLAIMING-- THROUGH YOUR VERY FEAR-- MY ADVENT UPON THE EARTH!

LET HUMANKIND KNOW THAT ZARATHOS HAS BROKEN HIS CHAINS-- AND HE MAKES READY TO HUMBLE THIS PLANET--

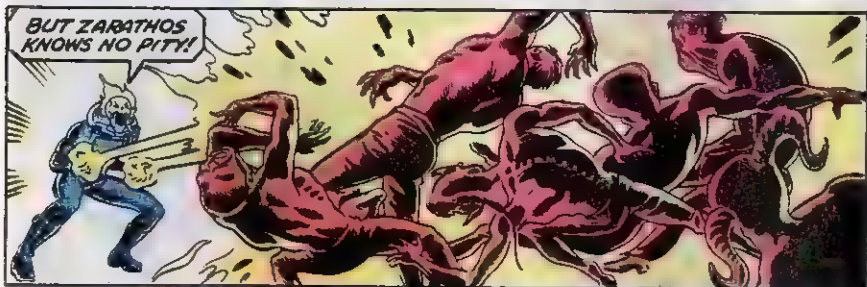


-- JUST AS HE DID THOSE UNTOLD THOUSANDS OF YEARS PAST!

AS THE LAST SURGEON FALLS GIBBERING IN TERROR, THE GHOST RIDER SMASHES HIS WAY FREE OF THE MAKESHIFT OPERATING THEATRE. BUT THEN...

WHAT HAVE WE HERE? HUMANITY'S DREGS? THE WRETCHED AND THE MALFORMED!

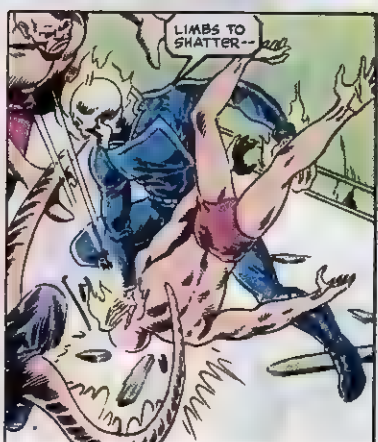
NO DOUBT SOME WOULD HAVE PITY ON SUCH HAPLESS CREATURES!



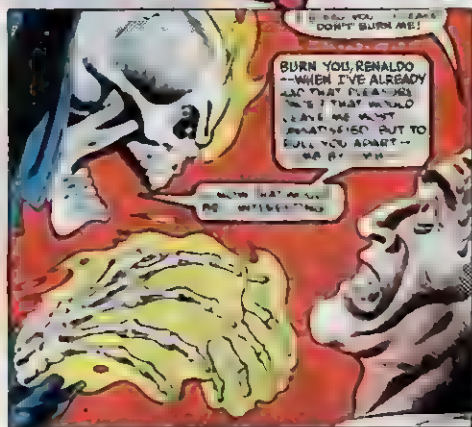
BUT ZARATHOS KNOWS NO PITY!



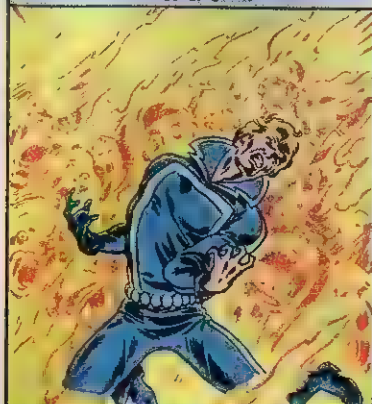
YOU HAVE SOULS TO BURN-- AS ANY OTHER!



LIMBS TO SHATTER--

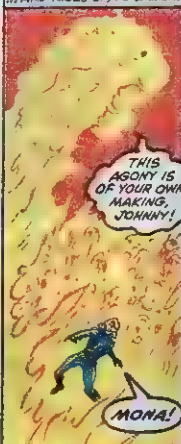


AND, EVEN AS THE HANDS OF DEATH DRAW CLOSER TO A FEAR-FROZEN RENALDO, DEEP IN THE DREAM-DIMENSION JOHNNY BLAZE MIGHTS WITHIN A FIERY CIRCLE OF GUILT.



REFLECTED IN THOSE FLAMES ARE A LIFETIME OF FACES THAT MOCK AND REVILE BLAZE! BUT THEN-- ONE FACE SEPARATES FROM THE REST--

...AND RISES UP TO SPEAK...



THIS AGONY IS OF YOUR OWN MAKING, JOHNNY!

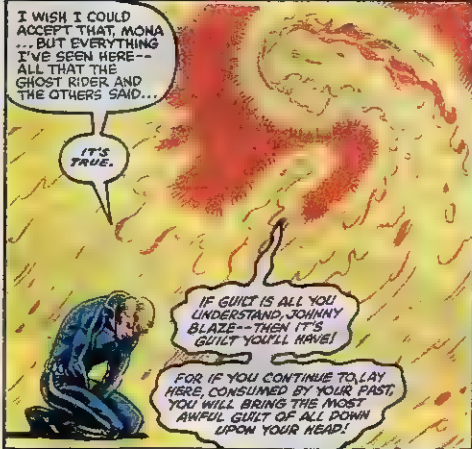
MONA!

FREEDOM CAN BE YOURS IF YOU SIMPLY REALIZE THAT YOUR LIFE'S DEFEATS AND DISAPPOINTMENTS HAVE BEEN MORE THAN BALANCED BY ACTS BOTH DECENT AND WORTHY--

--NONE MORE SO THAN YOUR CONSTANT STRUGGLE TO HOLD THE GHOST RIDER IN CHECK! HOW MANY COUNTLESS INNOCENTS HAVE BEEN SAVED BY YOUR CEASELESS STRIVING FOR CONTROL?

I WISH I COULD ACCEPT THAT, MONA... BUT EVERYTHING I'VE SEEN HERE-- ALL THAT THE GHOST RIDER AND THE OTHERS SAID...

IT'S TRUE.



IF GUILT IS ALL YOU UNDERSTAND, JOHNNY BLAZE-- THEN IT'S GUILT YOU'LL HAVE!

FOR IF YOU CONTINUE TO LAY HERE, CONSUMED BY YOUR PAST, YOU WILL BRING THE MOST AWFUL GUILT OF ALL DOWN UPON YOUR HEAD!

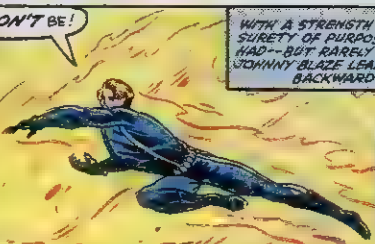
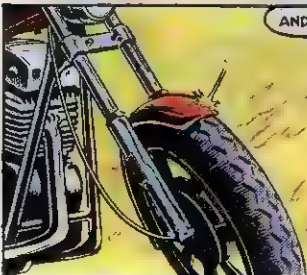
YOU WILL HAVE SET THE GHOST RIDER FREE IN THE WORLD WITH NO CONSTRAINTS; NO HUMANITY OR COMPASSION TO TEMPER HIS INHUMAN FURY! AND THAT IS A BURDEN YOU WILL HAVE TO BEAR-- TILL TIME'S END!

NO! I CAN'T BE RESPONSIBLE FOR THAT!



AND I WON'T BE!

WITH A STRENGTH OF WILL AND A SURETY OF PURPOSE HE HAS ALWAYS HAD-- BUT RARELY EXPRESSED-- JOHNNY BLAZE LEAPS, WITHOUT A BACKWARD GLANCE...

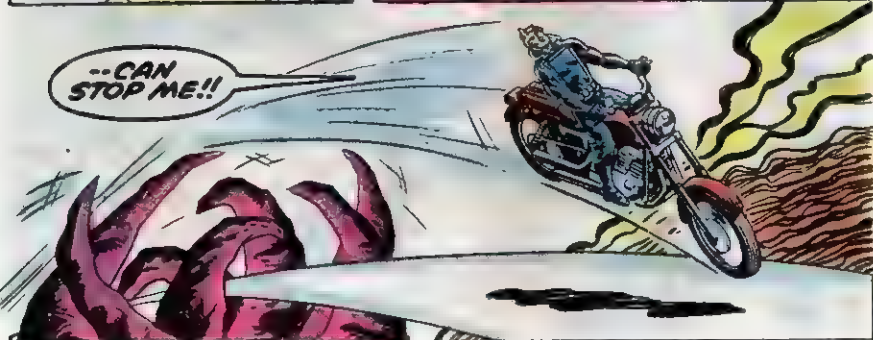


...THROUGH BURNING WALLS OF GUILT! THROUGH DOUBT, SELF-DENY, AND FEAR!

A MIRACULOUS ESCAPE THAT DOES NOT GO... UNNOTICED!



ONCE MY SERVANTS HAVE HAD DONE WITH YOU --



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BULPEN BULLETINS

CLARIFICATIONS

Michelle here. Jim, look, I know you've got a tough job juggling herd on the most creative bunch of loonies in the funnybook business, and I understand how the ol' gray matter can start to fray a bit at the edges. But what's all this about wanting me to guest-write a segment of "Bulpen Bulletins"? I mean, come on! What're you running, a comic book company or a hardware store? Since when did Thor become a majority stockholder? And hey, what's next? Roto-liner reviews? The Amazing Spider-Wrench? Texas Chainsaw Comics And Sto-ah? What's that? You say, "Bulpen Bulletins"? Oh. Well, that's different.

HE'S NOT HEAVY—HE'S MY SMITH-CORONA

(Ahem.) Hi. This is David Michelinie, scripter of Marvel's space-spanning saga, and I'd like to thank my buddy Jim "Straight Shooter" for allowing me this opportunity to hammer out a few of my grogs. To stink a blow as it were, for equal time and to really hit the nail on the head about a less of the more cogent concerns that are rattling around in what I honestly believe to be my brain. First thing, the place of the writer in comics today. Quite simply I'm fed-up with being treated like a second-class citizen in this biz. Just go to any major comics convention and look around — how many times do you see fans asking writers to do a paragraph for them? How many times do you see a script bringing top dollar at an auction? How many times do you see a ruble young comics groupie blowing into a writer's ear? You'd think that us hard-working type jockeys would get our fair share of adulation, but nnnnnnn!

If all goes to those furrhugginer pretty-boy smut and why? What do they do to deserve the Heaven's Gift superstar treatment? Nothing! Oh, sure, some of them want to art school, and most had to learn anatomy and perspective and brush control and composition and dumb stuff like that. But look what we overlooked and over-taxed scribes have had to learn. Words! And even beyond that, we're supposed to make sense with them! Sheesh! I guess what I'm really trying to say is that it's easy to be an artist, espe-

cially a comics artist. And as proof, I've worked up the accompanying sketches to show that anyone can draw comics. I trust they speak for themselves. Huff said.



Hulk angry Hulk sad Hulk dead

APPLE PEEL DEPT.

Hi, Mom.

MICHELINIE DIES

That's right, I did try touching up the premature gray at my temples a while back, but I've since let my brown-brown locks revert to their natural salt-and-chocolate splendor. I figure the touch of gray makes me look intellectual, and that should impress all of the groupies who'll look me up after seeing my Hulk sketches (Belch, an artist wouldn't have thought of that!)

STAN LEE GIVES BIRTH

Another gripe I'd like to get off my chest is the indiscriminate use of deceptive copy just to get the reader's attention. I mean, how cheap can you get? What's a reader to think when he or she sees "Bomb His Avengers Mansion" plastered all over an Avengers cover, only to find that the story inside is about Simon Williams trying out his new night-club act on his hapless friends? This misleading and deceitful use of words (see? I told you they were important!) is both reprehensible and an insult to our loyal readers. Only a microscopic mind would think to use such base trickery, and I say we should keep the kind of foolishness out of Marvel comics! Hear, hear!

DELIBERATE DAVE'S SOAPBOX

Hmm, let's see, I'm not attending any conventions this month, haven't been invited to any Italian Book Fairs, I haven't gotten married lately and I'm reasonably sure that I don't have any children. So guess what have I got up the rear of this page with news about my upcoming projects. The most exciting project (well, I find it exciting) is the pair of mini-series I'm working on for publication in 1983. The first is a quartet of Wonder Man solo adventures, in which Simon Williams becomes an ace trouble-shooter for the newly-formed Cordco, Inc. — an experimental subsidiary of Stark International that explores territory where no man, woman, gnome, mutant or certified public accountant has gone before. This one's already plotted, and is currently waiting for Jubilation John Romka, Jr. to take time from penciling that spider-person to lord

Wondy his magic touch. The second mini-series is in its earlier stages, but will star none other than everyone's favorite electronics tinkerer and movie buff, *The Astonishing Anti-Man!* I can't say much about this one, except that it will have Scott Lang setting up his own business and will feature the first appearance of Mrs. Scott Lang!

Other than that, I will be pencilling a fill-in issue of *X-Men* soon, and am slated to take over the inking on *Fantastic Four* next month. My latest book, "Drawing Comics The Michelinie Way", should be in the stores by the time you read this—ah! Jim! What's wrong? Not Put that eldritch hammer down! This is my typewriter! It's my s#!t!RY"SGUORJUE\$!)e\$e!ell!

AFTERMATH

Hello. This is Jim Shooter. We're sorry that David was unable to finish this column, but his typewriter... uh... broke. We do apologize and hope that you'll be back for Bulpen Bulletins next month.

I know I will

Jim Shooter

THE TYPE BOX

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The Great American Bicycle

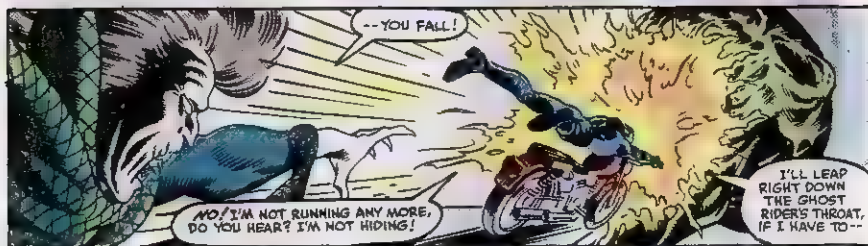
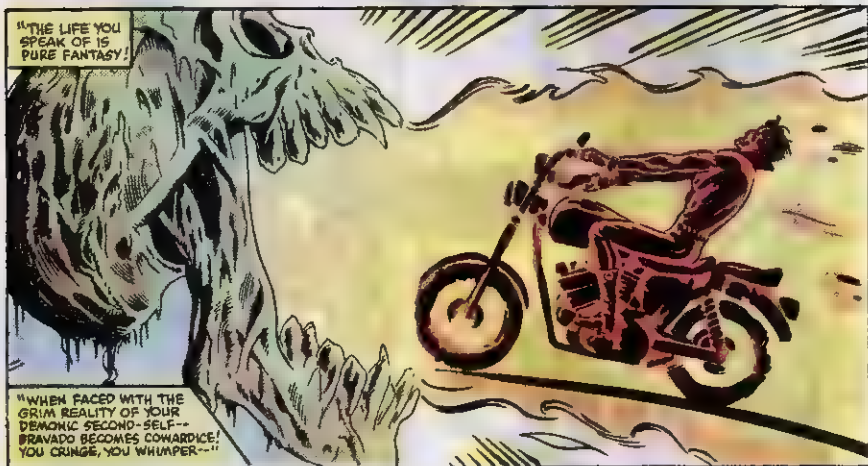
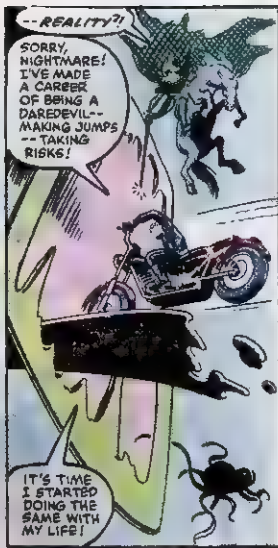
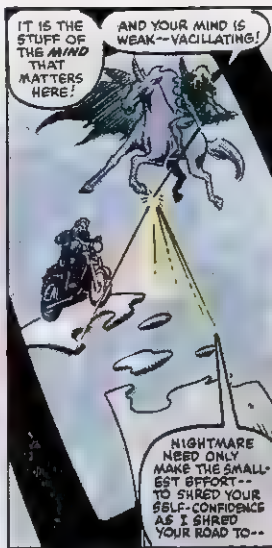
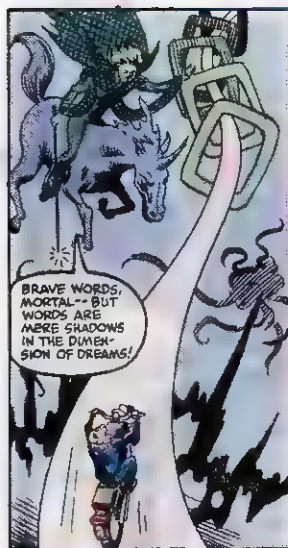
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Yet he went on.

After passing the Sphinx, the Temple of Isis, the Great Pyramids, he reached the Temple of Ra where he presented all his treasures.

Unfortunately, he did

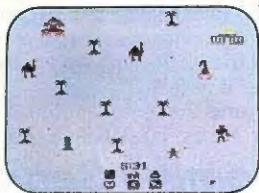
not have the correct offering. Ra was not satisfied. Gary had to go back and try again.

And again. And again. And again. And again. And again. And again. And again.

Here you see Gary as he is today. A veggie. Zonked out. Totally.

This is a warning. Imagic games are created by experts for experts. Do not try to solve the Riddle of the Sphinx if your IQ is equal to or less than your belt size.

After all, a brain is a terrible thing to fry.



For Atari[®] VCS.



Created by experts for experts.

super Cobra

VIDEO GAME CARTRIDGE

Atari
Game Series



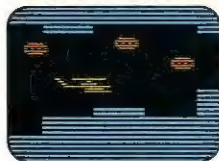
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Your mission is to fly the Super Cobra helicopter, armed with only missiles and bombs, straight through the side of a mountain.

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